

West Lafayette Fire Department August 2011

9-11 Events This month required a lot of preparation and planning for the upcoming 10 year memorial anniversary of 9-11.

There are two planned 9-11 memorial events that WLFD will be participating in. The first event is a countywide one to be held at Riehle Plaza. It is scheduled to start at 1:00 pm and last a half-hour. The second is scheduled to start in Ross-Ade Stadium at 3:00 pm. (Both of these are to be held on Sunday, September 11.)

The Riehle Plaza service will be a brief but highly visible public event that includes several area fire departments and police agencies. Sherriff Tracy Brown has been leading the organizational committee and WLFD has been participating in it along with other agencies. The plan includes displaying a very large American flag by hanging it from aerial fire trucks. WLFD, LFD, and PUFD will have aerials there. One of these will be positioned for an immediate exit should a call come in during the service. Both Mayors Dennis and Roswarski are scheduled to participate in the service and Dr. Will Miller is scheduled to give a five minute address. The LFD honor guard is scheduled to be at the service. While the planning calls for a brief thirty minute service, the intent is to publically mark this tenth year since 9-11 with the proper honor and respect that is owed to those who were killed that day.

Firefighter Ben Jones from WLFD and Assistant Chief Mike Blann from LFD are the primary coordinators for the 3:00 event. This will be a 9-11 Memorial Stair Climb. The memorial stair climb idea originated from the Denver Fire Department in 2005 when five firefighters started what has become a growing way to honor the deaths of the 343 FDNY firefighters, most of whom died while climbing up the building stairs as the Towers collapsed. This year in Denver 343 firefighters will climb 110 stories to, "Never Forget" but several hundred more firefighters had to be turned away due to space limitations. The event being planned locally is expected to likewise start with a small number of firefighters since one has not been held here before. What could serve as a suitable local venue was discussed. It was decided that by using all of the aisles in Ross-Ade stadium, that Ross-Ade would work. Participating firefighters (police officers and EMS personnel too) will be either climbing all of the simulated 110 stories individually or a portion of them as a member of a relay team. Climbing in full turnout gear is an option that some firefighters will chose. In addition to being a fitting and respectful way to demonstrate due honor on this 10th anniversary, the Stair Climb has the benefit of promoting physical fitness within the fire service. Bret Yundt and several other WL firefighters are helping Firefighter Jones with the planning and preparations for the Stair Climb.

Yeager Road Training Two houses on the corner of Yeager Road and Northwestern Ave will soon be taken down as part of the road improvement work scheduled for that intersection. Both of these houses were able to be utilized for training.

Chief Drew